

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9984

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INFO USCINCEUR

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USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

ALL NATO CAPITALS 4974

S E C R E T USNATO 0673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BRUCE REMARKS ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW;

DPC MEETING FEBRUARY 6

TEXT OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE REMARKS DURING FEBRUARY 6 DPC DISCUSSION  
OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW (SEPTTEL) FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN:

FIRST, LET ME CONGRATULATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY  
COMMITTEE ON THE EXCELLENT JOB THE COMMITTEE AND THE MAJOR NATO  
COMMANDERS HAVE DONE IN ASSESSING MILITARY IMPLICATIONS.

MY AUTHORITIES WERE PLEASED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS  
PLACED HIGH PRIORITY ON MAINTAINING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE  
DEFENSES IN NATO'S CENTER REGION, THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE  
HOME ISLANDS. WE ARE CONCERNED HOWEVER, WITH SEVERAL ASPECTS  
SECRET

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OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW:

- THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS WILL DEGRADE ALLIANCE CAPA-  
BILITIES FOR REINFORCEMENT. WE SUGGEST THAT THE UK MIGHT,

AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CUTTING STRATEGIC RESERVE COMBAT UNITS,  
EXPLORE WAYS TO ABSORB THESE REDUCTIONS BY REDUCING OVERHEAD  
COSTS.

- WE SUGGEST THAT THE UK MIGHT LESSEN THE IMPACT OF NAVAL  
AND AIR REDUCTIONS IN THE MEDETERRANEAN IF IT COULD ANNOUNCE  
PUBLICLY THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE PERIODIC SHIP AND TASK  
FORCE DEPLOYMENTS TO THE AREA, AND JOIN IN NAVAL EXERCISED.

MY AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE  
THAT DEFENSE DOES NOT SUFFER A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF BUDGET  
CUTS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS MORE EASILY CONTROLLED THAN OTHER PARTS  
OF THE BUDGET. WE ALL FACE HARD SPENDING CHOICES. FOR OUR PART, WE  
ARE DETERMINED THAT OUR OWN DEFENSE BUDGET WILL MAINTAIN PRESENT  
SPENDING LEVELS IN REAL TERMS BUT, OUR ABILITY TO DO THIS IS  
BOUND TO BE INFLUENCED BY CONGRESSIONAL JUDGEMENTS AS TO HOW  
WELL OUR ALLIES ARE MAINTAINING THEIR FORCE LEVELS.

WE FULLY SUPPORT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR  
A CONTINUING PROCESS OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE UK AUTHORITIES  
AND THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS. WE SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM  
MIGHT AVOID SOME OF THE CUTS IN ITS FORCES PLANNED FOR THE END  
OF THE COMING FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BY THE ALTERNATIVE OF SAVING  
FUNDS THROUGH INCREASED COOPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.  
IT SEEMS TO MY AUTHORITIES THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR  
MAJOR SAVINGS THROUGH SUCH COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AS RATIONALIZ-  
ATION OF TRAINING, CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION  
IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS.  
ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING SUCH COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS COULD  
INCLUDE APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES THAT RESULTING BALANCE OF PAY-  
MENTS OR OTHER FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES SHOULD BE BALANCED  
EQUITABLY AMONG THE PARTICIPATING ALLIES.  
END TEXT.  
BRUCE.

SECRET

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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR  
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ALL NATO CAPITALS

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